

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method of identifying a subscriber's local service provider of a caller in response to a telephone call from the subscriber caller to a called party, the method comprising:--

receiving a request from a sender ~~from a customer~~ for the an identity of the subscriber's caller's local service provider, the call having been suspended at a switch of an interexchange carrier;

sending a request to an LNP database, based on a telephone number of the caller, to determine which of a plurality of databases to query;

~~determining which of a plurality of databases to query;~~

receiving an identification of a database to query from the LNP database;

determining a message type to send ~~to the database to the identified database to query;~~ ~~selected in response to the first determination;~~ and

launching a query to the ~~selected~~ identified database;

receiving an identification of the caller's local service provider from the identified database in response to the query; and

sending a notification to the sender comprising identifying information of the identified local service provider of the caller and whether an agreement exists between the identified local service provider and the interexchange carrier.

2. (original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the determining of message type is based upon a cost associated with each of a plurality of available message types.

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3. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the determining of message type is based upon the message type supported by ~~each of the plurality of databases~~ identified database.

4-8. (canceled)

9. (original) The method according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the plurality of databases comprises a line information database.

10. (currently amended) A method of identifying a ~~subscriber's~~ local service provider of a caller in response to a telephone call from the ~~subscriber~~ caller to a called party, the method comprising:

monitoring integrated services digital network user part signaling traffic of a carrier for initial address messages;

sending a request to an LNP database when the monitoring detects the telephone call, based on a telephone number of the caller, to determine which of a plurality of databases to query;

receiving an identification of a database to query from the LNP database;

~~receiving a request from a customer for the identity of the subscriber's local service provider;~~

determining a message type in which to query a the identified database based at least on a cost associated with each of a plurality of message types; and

~~launching a query to one of a plurality of databases based upon the determination;~~

launching a query to the identified database; and

receiving an identification of the caller's local service provider from the identified database in response to the query.

11. (currently amended) The method according to claim 10, wherein the determination is further based upon the message type supported by ~~each of the plurality of databases~~ identified database.

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12-14. (canceled)

15. (currently amended) The method according to claim 10, wherein the launching ~~further comprises launching a query to one of the plurality of databases~~ is performed during the pendency of the telephone call.

16. (canceled)

17. (original) The method according to claim 10, wherein at least one of the plurality of databases comprises a line information database.

18. (currently amended) A system for identifying a ~~subscriber's~~ local service provider of a caller associated with a telephone call from the ~~subscriber caller~~ to a called party, the system comprising:

a gateway comprising a plurality of platforms configured to dynamically load share requests, that receives a request from a customer the gateway receiving a request requesting an identification of the local service provider of the caller to ascertain the identity of the subscriber's local service provider, the gateway being able configured to determine one of a plurality of message types in which to query one of a plurality of databases, to launch a query to one of the plurality of databases, and to receive an identification of the local service provider of the caller.

19. (original) The system according to claim 18, wherein the gateway determines the message type based upon a cost associated with each available message type.

20. (original) The system according to claim 18, wherein the gateway determines the message type based upon a message type supported by each of the plurality of databases.

21. (original) The system according to claim 18, wherein the request is received prior to the telephone call being connected to the called party.

22. (original) The system according to claim 18, wherein the request is received during the pendency of the telephone call.

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23. (original) The system according to claim 18, wherein the request is received after the telephone call has been disconnected.

24. (original) The system according to claim 18, wherein at least one of the plurality of databases comprises a line information database.

25. (currently amended) A computer readable medium for identifying a subscriber's local service provider of a caller in response to a telephone call from the subscriber caller to a called party, the computer readable medium comprising:

a monitoring code segment that monitors integrated services digital network user part signaling traffic of a carrier for initial address messages;

a querying code segment that queries an LNP database when the monitoring code segment detects the telephone call, based on a telephone number of the caller, to determine which of a plurality of databases to query;

~~a receiving source code segment that receives a request from a customer for the identity of the subscriber's local service provider;~~

~~a determining source code segment that determines a message type to query a database based on a cost associated with each of a plurality of message types; and~~

~~a launching source code segment that launches a query to one of a plurality of databases;~~

a first receiving code segment that receives an identification of a database to query from the LNP database;

a determining code segment that determines a message type in which to query the identified database;

a launching code segment that launches a query to the identified database; and

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a second receiving code segment that receives an identification of the caller's local service provider in response to the query by the launching code segment.

26. (currently amended) The ~~system~~ computer readable medium according to claim 25, wherein at least one of the plurality of databases comprises a line information database.

27. (new) The method according to claim 1, wherein the interexchange carrier may use the notification to decide whether to connect the suspended call to the called party.